

From: Terry Houle
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 5:56pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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MS Settlement

In regard to the proposed settlement between the US vs. Microsoft I feel the proposed settlement is far too lenient and will not stop Microsoft from going about their monopolistic ways to the detriment of the public. For years I have been forced into the Windows Operating System when choosing a new personal computer. This has caused me adverse financial impact by not allowing me other options. This was caused due to the monopoly that Microsoft created. I believe the court should direct Microsoft to refund all owners of Windows Operating Systems a dollar figure to be determined by the court. This shall be for each system they may have purchased such as Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows 2000, etc.

The Technical Committee (TC) that is proposed by this proposed settlement is inadequate to oversee this corporate giant. Also the Microsoft Compliance officer's role needs to be strengthened. It should be a stipulation that the job shall be the only task they perform for Microsoft Corporation and not let it get diluted with tasks they may be responsible for. The court should have overseer authority and have to approve the change or termination of said officer. The court needs to insure Microsoft does not bully them into their ways and they do not have to fear termination, or retribution by Microsoft.

It also does not appear that the court has addressed the "Passport" service that is proposed by Microsoft and the potential negative impacts of that.

As a consumer I feel I have been forced into using and having to pay a premium price for the Windows Operating System when purchasing several computers. Microsoft should be forced to refund me, as well as all other consumers, a portion of that price since they forced the situation where there was not competition and hence I had to pay a premium.

This settlement is not in the best interest of the consumer who has been harmed financially.

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